

# ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

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# Traditional Assessment

- Teachers tend to favor selection-type tests (multiple choice, true-false, matching)
- Many questions can be asked in a short amount of time
- Easy to administer and score
- Results are easily recorded in numbers

# Drawbacks

- Devoted to remembering facts and terms
- Realism of tasks and complexity of tasks are both very low for selected-response assessments
- Overemphasis of these because of getting students ready for State tests in schools
- Teaching to the State tests

# Alternative Assessment

- Many educators prefer the description "assessment alternatives" to describe alternatives to traditional, standardized, norm- or criterion-referenced traditional paper and pencil testing

# Performance Assessment

- Direct, systematic observation and rating of student performance of an educational objective, often an ongoing observation over a period of time, and typically involving the creation of products
- The assessment should be a real-world performance with relevance to the student and learning community
- Performance-based assessment is a test of the ability to apply knowledge in a real-life setting
- Realism of tasks and complexity of tasks are high

# Examples of Alternative Assessments

- Essays
- Poster presentations
- Written reports
- Case studies
- Projects
- Class presentations

# Specific Content Examples

- Science: design an airplane that flies using the rules of aerodynamics learned in class
- Math: give a presentation on a famous mathematician and how his/her formula helps to shape the world we live in
- History: build a model village, song project

# Drawbacks

- Assessment time needed is often high
- Rubrics must be created and used in order to establish a grade and the degree to which a concept was demonstrated
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# Sources

- <http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/assessment/terminology.htm>
- <http://www.iml.uts.edu.au/assessment/types/>
- *Assessment of Student Achievement* by Norman E. Gronlund and C. Keith Waugh